ADVANCE OF THE BRITISH

General Roberts Presses Forward in Pursuit of the Boers.

The Burghers Reported to Be Re tiring From the Zand River Toward Kroonstad-Botha's Forces May Make Their Next Stand at That Stronghold-Preparations to Transfer the Free State Govern ment to Heilbrun-Losses of the Federalists in the Fight With Hunter at Fourteen Streams-Gordon Highlanders Rout a Commando

LONDON, May 9.-Although no official despatches from General Roberts have been | era made public by the War Office today, there is every reason to believe that the British campaign in the Orange Free State is being most successfully prosecuted.

In lieu of official reports from the front, several news despatches of a generally satisfactory character have been received indicating a steady progress of the English forces in the wake of the flying burghers.

A despatch from Smaldeel says that the Boers are reported to be retiring from the Zand River, where, it has been generally believed, they would make a determined stand in force against the further advance of General Roberts' army.

The mystery concerning the movement of General French has been cleared up by another Smaldeel despatch, which states that he has joined General Roberts' forces near that place.

The latest news from the field showed miles beyond Smaldeel and reached the Zand River, where Botha was expected to make a stand. When the English reached the river, the Boers were seen to be in strong force on the north bank of the stream, and, though the report of their withdrawal further northward has been received, it is possible that another battle may yet be fought near the waters of the

Although 4,000 British cavalry watered their horses in the Zand on Monday no attempt was made to cross at that time, presumably on account of some delay in receiving supplies from the south owing to the partial destruction of the railway line. The Zand is only forty-five miles from the Boer stronghold, at Kroon stad, and it is thought possible that the Federalists may have reconsidered their determination to meet Roberts at the river and withdraw to the fortified town in-

In this connection a despatch from Lou-Marques is interesting. It states that the Free Staters, in the expectation that Kroonstad will soon become untenable, are preparing to transfer their Government to Heilbrun, a little more than fifty miles to the northeast. Another despatch from Smaldeel, dated

May 8, 8.30 p. m., says that the British have been successful at all points re-General Hunter has passed Fourteen

Streams, north of Kimberley, after a fight in which more than twenty of the Boers. including two commandants, were killed. The Gordon Highlanders put a large commando of the burghers to flight at the Vet River, and the Eighth Hussars killed over seventy of the retreating Boers. Although General Ian' Hamilton was

fighting every day last week, his casualties numbered only about 100. Many Boers are turning in their horses

and Mauser rifles at Smaldeel.

EXODUS OF THE BOERS.

Rond From Wepener to Clocolan

roads from Wepener to Clocolan are shrouded in dust. Owing to a block of the continuous stream of wagons and cattle going northward they are jammed together in an inextricable mass, the leaders not knowing which way to turn.

The British occupation of Winburg and fenekal is said to have frightened the Boers who fear that their retreat may be

ASSURANCES FROM STEYN

Foreign Intervention. LONDON, May 9.-It is reported that

President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, is busy in the Ladybrand district. He is assuring the burghers that the

Boer peace delegates are sure to succeed in their mission, and that foreign interven

PEACE RESOLUTIONS PASSED. Premier Schreiner's Constituents

Meet at Malmesburg. Colony, yesterday,

At Malmesburg, which is not far from Durbanville, Premier Schreiner's constituents passed a resolution in favor of an hon-by orable peace between Great Britain and this morning. the Boer Republics.

BOERS DESERT LADYBRAND.

They Destroy Documents Concerning the Origin of the War. MASERU, May 8.-The Boers have deserted Ladybrand and Ficksburg.

They took a lot of books and documents

with them and destroyed such others as might give informat on as to the origin of war and the supplying of the Free te burghers and Cape Colony rebels in Mausers from the Transvaal.

A BRITISH SHIP WRECKED.

Twenty-two of the Crew Reported

Lost at Sen. MELBOURNE, May 9.—The British ship Sierra Nevada, Captain Scott, which sailed from Liverpool for Melbourne, on January 16, and was spoken on February 2, in latitude 38 north and longitude 15 west, has

There are no details of the disaster beyond the fact that twenty-two members of the crew were lost and five saved.

\$30.80 via B. & O. to Hot Springs. Ark., and Return. Southern Baptist and Auxiliary Con-Tickets sold and good, going, May 7 return until May 24.

Lowest Bids always on Lumber sad mill work lists, by Frank Libbey & Co.

CONFERS WITH MR. M'KINLEY. overnor Roosevelt an Early Calle

at the White House. Governor*Roosevelt, who up to the present time has been most prominently mentioned as a Vice Presidential possibility on the ticket with Mr. McKinley, called on the President this morning. He was ac-

ompanied only by his private secretary,
Mr. Young.

They arrived at the White House at 10:40 o'clock, and were at once shown into the President's private office. There they remained for thirty-five minutes. At the conclusion of the conference Governor Roosevelt announced that he had absolutely nothing to say.

"Will you be a Vice Presidential candi-

Will you be a Vice Presidential candidate?" he was asked. "I really don't want to say anything bout that."

You have already announced, with emhasis, that you will not accept the honor,

phasis, that you will not accept the honor, have you not?" enquired a newspaper man. "Well, I have announced that with moderate emphasis," replied the Governor, with a smiling stress on the "moderate."
"I am here on a social visit," he concluded. "Of course, I shall deal with politics in the broad sense of meeting people."
It was currently reported around the White House this morning that the Governor will either nominate or second Mr. rnor will either nominate or second Mr. McKinley's nomination at the Philadelphia

After leaving the White House, Governor Roosevelt called upon Secretary Root at the War Department. They were closeted for some time, and politics was discussed, it is understood, in a general manner. The Governor, however, on leaving the War Department, stated that his visit to Washington had no political significance.

MINISTER DATO STONED.

Demonstrations Against the Spanish

Government at Tarrassa. BARCELONA, May 9 .- Senor Dato, Minter of the Interior, visited Tarrassa, fifteen miles from here, today, to investigate that the British had advanced twenty-five the recent demonstration against the Government. He was compelled to leave abruptly, however, as the crowd stoned him and his escort. Senor Dato was injured.

The disorderly conduct at the university has been renewed. The civil guards entered the lecture hall today with drawn swords, and several persons were wounded. The lectures have been suspended.

FUSIONISTS AT SIOUX FALLS. Lively Discussion of the Vice Presi-

dential Nomination. SIOUX FALLS, S. Dak., May 9 .- The emand that the Fusionist-Populist Conntion, which is to begin its session here at 2 o'clock this afternoon, shall nominate a candidate for Vice President is heard in of the District Government at this, our tain that such action will be taken. This character of the task, and of the absence

its determination to cominate. Major J. M. Bowler Minnesota's nullify its determination to commate. Towne. Major J. M. Bowler Minnesota's State Dairy and Food Commissioner, who brought out Ringdal for temporary chair-rian, declares that Towne must be the can-didate. The Minnesotr and Nebraska, as well as other delegations, held conferences on the Vice Presidential question this

BITTER FIGHT AT HARTFORD. Connecticut Republican Convention

Split by Factions.

HARTFORD, Conn., May 9.-After an LONDON, May 9.—A despatch from Maberu of yesterday's date says that the
coads from Wepener to Clocolan are
opened at 10.15 o'clock : his morning in the
Auditorium with coniests as the first busiseru of yesterday's date says that the mittee, the Republican State Committee Auditorium with confests as the first busi-

Bad blood was shown last night in the fight between the Fyler and Fessenden forces in which charges of gross injustice were made against Chairman Fyler and Secretary Eddy, of the State Committee, in enrolling delegates from Cornwall and Bethlehem, there being a contest in each

At the opening today the credentials committee submitted two reports. Senator The Free State President Predicting Kendall, of Suffield, for the majority, reported in favor of seating the Fyler delegates. Michael Kenealey, of Stamford, the home of Sam Fessenden, addressed the convention against a majority report, and presented a minority report signed by himself and five others of the credentials committee of twenty-four members. He charged the Fyler men with running

a rump caucus at Cornwall and leaving the regular caucus because they said some Democrats were present. This, too, he behindrats were present. This, too, he said, after Democrats, who had arted with the Republicans and intended to vote with the Republians the coming fall, had been CAPE TOWN, May 8.—A meeting in fa-vor of peace was held at Durbanville, Cape in the speaker said, there was no seceding until the Fyler crowd found themselves in

selection of State Committeemen from the twenty-four Senatorial Districts insures the re-election of Chairman Fyler ut 16 to 8. The caucuses were held

M'LEAN LIKELY TO CONTROL.

His Plan for Choosing Delegates to

Ohio's Democratic Convention. CLEVELAND, Ohio, May 9 .- John R. McLean is making a quiet contest to control the Democratic State Convention and Ohio delegation to the Kansas City Convention. He has suggested that as far as possible all delegations to the State convention be named by the county committees. If this is generally carried out, it is claimed, he will have the control of the

The plan of naming the delegation with. out the resort to a primary election is severely criticised by Mr. McLean's oppo-nents. McLean, it is generally conceded, will control the Obio delegation to Kansas

It is likely that the Bucleye delegation to Kansas City will be headed by Abraham Patrick. of New Philadelphia. Patrick's desire to be Bryan's running mate is said desire to be Bryan's running mate is said to be received with great favor in the State. The first State on the roll call, which is Alabama, will, it is said, in case his name comes before the National Con-vention vote for him. Other candidates for delegates at large, who are heing talked of with favor, through

who are being talked of with favor through the State are Col. James Kilbourne, of Columbus; Gen. Isaac R. Sherwood, of Toledo; Gen. J. A. Warner, of Marietta, and Allen W. Thurman, of Columbus.

Complete stocks for Frame House buildings. Everything necessary. Call at 6th and New York Ave.

heads of departments, saying that his work as Commissioner would have been com-paratively a failure but for the loyalty of subordinates which had been conspicuous

Commissioners Macfarland and Ross Assume Their Duties.

ompanied only by his private secretary, The Former Is Elected President of the New Board-Complimentary Speeches and a Present for Mr. Wight, the Retiring Member, From the District Building Employes.

> The inauguration of the new Board of issioners took place this morning at the District Building. At an early hour the desks of Commissioners Wight and Ross were covered with flowers sent in by their friends, which gave to the executive offices a holiday appearance.

Wight, the retiring Commissioner, called

upon him to pay their respects and ex-

press their best wishes for the future. Routine business was at a standstill, and It was impossible even to obtain a hearing for the latest appeal for the release of assessments in a street extension in the suburbs. The District Building with his out of the ordinary was about to happen.

A few minutes before 11 o'clock Henry
B. F. Macfarland came up the elevator to
the fifth floor. There was much dodging
through the halls and craning of necks to
catch a glimpse of the gentleman who
within an hour was to succeed John B.
Wight, and be elected President of the
Board. Mr. Macfarland passed quickly
into Mr. Wight's office where the two gentlemen greeted each other warmly. Commissioner Wight said that it was not necessary for him to express at length his essary for him to express at length his gratification at the sclection which the Fresident had made for his successor. "You know my sentiments in that respect, Mr. Macfarland, and I now offer my congratulations." In reply, Mr. Macfarland said in effect that the only unpleasant forward the congration of the consequence of the consequence

said in elect that the only unpressant feature of the occasion was the supplanting in office of so good a friend.

At 11 o'clock the Commissioners, in company with Mr. Macfarland, repaired to the Board Room, where the heads of departments, the clerks, and employes of the District Paulding had accompled. the District Building had assembled. -As Commissioner Wight took his place at the table Dr. William C. Woodward, the District Health Officer, approached him, and said in behalf of those present:

Dr. Woodward's Address.

"Mr. Commissioner: Several days ago I tain that such action will be taken. This was the principal topic of the morning in the hotel lobbies.

In many quarters the demand was made for a straightout nomination in the convention. It came from the Nebraskaus, the Texans, the Kansans, and from the Minnesota delegation which arrived on a special train this morning enthusiastic for the nomination of Charles A. Towne.

Senator Allen of Nebraska and Gen. J. B. Weaver, of Iowa, declare, however, that the convention should stop with the nomination of Bryan for President and leave the selection of a Vice Presidential candidate to the Democratic Convention.

The National Committee's selection last night of P. M. Ringdal, of Minnesota, to act as temporary chairman, it is claimed, was a sop to the Minnesota delegation to nullify its determination to committee. dicate to them that a physician usualty officiated at the close of life, and that by the present arrangement the necessity for the services of the coroner would be avoided. There is, Mr. Commissioner, a mystery about this wonderful thing which we call life, which the human mind has from the very beginning of time striven ineffectually to solve. From one point it is a simually to solve. From one point it is a sim compound of many elements—minor lives, so to speak, a home life, a business life, a spiritual life, and with some of us an official life, all interwoven and yet dis-

"Three years ago you were sudden'y battle against ignorance, and crime, a poverty, and disease, and misfortune. Ma and there were forces to be opposed and overcome, which only those who have been engaged in the strife can appreciate. have fostered plans which had been out lined by your predecessors, and brough them to completion; you have inaugurated new schemes for the benefit of the commu-nity, and carried them to successiul terninations, and you have laid out for the cor

munity undertakings which now must be left to be carried on by others. Such, how-ever, is official life.

"We, your friends, wish and expect that you will be with us in the community for many years to come so that you may see the fruition of your labor Bu you may be, may good health and a kindly fortune be with you. We who remain behind will do better work for the inspira tion drawn from three years' service you, and will ever be proud, if we say that we have been numbered a your friends."

your friends."

H. d. Darneille, the District Assessor, then alose and said:

"Mr. Wight, we are assembled here this morning to bid you a fond official adieu, and in some little way to give expression to our kindly feelings. We had first intended to smother you with flowers; but after more deliberate consideration, we were brought face to face with the stern fact that flowers, in a few short days, would wither and decay, and it was the consensus of opinion that we should ter you some little gift instead, that might be of service to you in the future. And of service to you in the tuture. And learning that you intended taking a trip out Vest, decided to present you with this memento of our high esteem, and trusting that in after years it may bring back a few pleasant recollections of your friends in the District service. And speaking for those present, I wish to say that our worst wish for you is, that you may always have health, and that no evil may ever cross your path, and that the goddess of fortune

may ever smile upon you "Now, on behalf of the employes of the District of Columbia 1 tender you this case, and we hope it may be of service to you, and at least last until you are rich enough to buy one studded with dia-

The memento referred to was a handsome sole leather dressing case fitted out with all the necessary toilet articles of

Mr. Wight's Reply. In replying to the sentiments expressed Mr. Wight was visibily affected. His voice trembled with emotion, and he spoke for

some minutes with difficulty. "What you have said, Dr. Woodward and Mr. Darneille, together with the bestowal of this gift moves me deeply." he said. Mr. Wight then referred to the kindly relations which had existed between him-

self as President of the Board and the Always Coel at Chesapeake Beach. Two daily excursion trains, 10 a. m. and 2 m. Take Columbia car to depot.

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Mr. Wight declared that he should carry

Mr. Wight declared that he should carry with him in the future not only a grateful remembrance of faithful service on the part of those before him, but the proofs of their friendship. He said he was conscious of a deep feeling of personal regard for the men with whom he had labored for the good of the District, and he was sure that similar feelings were enjertained by them similar feelings were entertained by them toward himself. "Congenial relations of common employ-ment may be severed, but friends never part," he continued. "Though they sep-arate for a time and tread different paths, their hearts are together," and Mr. Wight added that he was happy in the conscious-ness that he should not be entirely forgot-

ten in his retirement from office.

"This beautiful gift, perfect in all its appointments, I gratefully accept from you as the token of that personal regard of which you have been kind enough to speak. shall be a constant reminder of your devotion to me personally." During the morning the friends of Mr.

The Oath of Office Administered. At the close of his brief response to the addresses given him, Mr. Wight suggested that the oath of office be administered im-Messrs. Ross and Macfarland, and that he

"Having been appointed and confirmed a Commissioner of the District of Columbia, you do solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the United States are supported by the Constitution of the United States are supported by the Constitution of the United States are supported by the Constitution of the United States are supported by the Constitution of the Cons United States against all enemies, foreign Chiled States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge

word for each one as he passed and shook his hand. Mr. Wight introduced each person as he came forward to be introduced to the new Commissioner.

At the close of the reception the formal signing of the oaths of office was attended to before Dr. Tindall, acting as a notary. It was stated that the bonds of Commissioners

sioners Ross and Macfarland were in proper form, and it was learned that the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Baltimore had become surety for the Commissioners to the amount of \$50,000 each as required

Mr. Macfarland Elected President. The Board of Commissioners then met to organize, Mr. Ross temporarily taking the chair of the President. Mr. Ross read from the organic act of the incorporation every quarter today and it now seems cer- farewell meeting. Because of the painful of the District of Columbia clause 5 of

"And one of the three said Commissioners shall be chosen president of the Board of Commissioners at their first meeting, and annually, and whenever a vacancy shall occur thereafter."

Mr. 120ss said that it had been a custom

of long standing that the president of the Board should be in affiliation with the po-litical party at the head of the National Government. While it was unwritten law, he thought that the sanction of custom had made it binding. Therefore he took great pleasure in nominating Mr. Macfarland for the office of president of the board for one year from this date. The motion was seconded by Commis-

sioner Beach and was declared unanimous-

The Assignment of Duties. The attention of the Board was first directed to the division of departments over personal supervision. After an expression of preferences in the matter a few changes were made. Commissioner Macfarland takes charge of the duties assigned formerly to Mr. Wigh, except the Police Department, the Collection and Disposal of Garbage, the Columbian Hospital for Women, Police Surgeons and Police Awards, all of which pass over to Commissioner Ross. From Mr. Ross. Mr. Macfarland receives all charitable matters except the Washington Asylum. He also takes charge of the public schools and public school matters. The assignments of Commissioner Beach remain unchanged.

The first official routine act of Commissioner or rear attachment to centain the dry primer and detonator, which, in the Jureau's opinion, is the only feature of the entire contemplated outfit that Ga'hmann

The first official routine act of Commis-sioner Macfarland was the approval of the appointment of William Pallas as additional private of the Police Department, for duty from New York Avenue to P Street northwest, and from Second to Sixth

streets.

A custom attaching to the taking of the oath of office by the District Commission-ers is for each to select one or two verses from the copy of the Bible, used to be rethe oath on the Secretary's Today Mr. Macfarland chose Prov-

and lean not unto thine own understand-

He shall direct thy paths."

Former Commissioner Wight left the District Building soon after the installation of Mr. Macfarland as his successor, going to his home. He remarked upon leaving his room that the sense of freedom as a private clitizen overcame all regrets over the retinement from office. As already announced, Mr. Wight expects to take an extended trip in the West, starting within a few weeks.

THE PEORIA CONVENTION.

**Solve for a large-calibre Gathmann gun for experimental purposes, and one is now in an advanced stage, but has yet to be to be to be to be to making other similar guns and no justification for installing Government could not get armor at a reasonable rate. The committee had then set itself to devise some plan that would composite the manufacturers to furnish armor for a ringe calibre Gathmann gun for experimental purposes, and one is now in an advanced stage, but has yet to be test—that never believed in a Government armor plant, but he had begun to see that unless something was done in that direction the Government could not get armor at a reasonable rate. The committee had then set itself to devise some plan that would composite the manufacturers to furnish armor for a size due to the premature explosion of such a shell in the bore of a gun it would be attended with most disastrous results. He shall direct thy paths.'

John G. Brown, of Vandalia; Hale D. Judson, of Kane county, and John M. Smyth, of Chicago, as delegates-at-large.

The report of the platform committee contained endorsaments of Secretar Culture.

Governor Tanner, and President McKin-

Government Receipts Today. The receipts of the Government today amounted to \$1,827,295.57, composed of \$894,283.09, internal revenue \$882,321,27, miscellaneous \$50,691.21 The

expenditures reached the sum of \$1.985,000

resulting in an excess of expenditures recipts today amounting to \$157,704.43. Leave of Absence for Major Mansfield Four months' leave of absence has been granted by the Secretary of War to Major Francis W. Mansfield, Eleventh United States Infantry, to take effect upon his re-lief from duty as collector of customs at

Report on the Memerial Bridge. Senator Daniel today reported favorab'y from the Committee on the District of Columbia the bill appropriating \$200,000 for preliminary construction of a Memorial Bridge across the Potomac from Washington to Arlington.

Chesapeake Beach-Excursion Train Leave daily, 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Last train leaves Beach 6:30 p. m. 50 cents round trip. Take Columbia car to depot.

Best Hickory-old prices for wheelwrights, 1 inch, 11/2 inch, 2 inch. All No. 1, at 6th and New York Ave.

HANNA'S GATHMANN GUN

Secretary Long Reports Adversely on Its Use for Warships.

might "get into the newspapers," and which were again referred to in executive session this afternoon, were disclosed today when the Secretary of the street expression by smokeless powder of a 10-inch gun. We wish to demonstrate the extreme safety of wet gun cotton, even under the extraordinary circumstance of the complete rupture of the gun." Navy forwarded secretly to the Senate the report on the Gathmann-Hanna gun and shells. The report denounces the that the oath of office be administered im-mediately to the incoming Commissioners, states the Gathmann-Hanna combination are not gunmakers but simply brokers who Messrs. Ross and Macfarland, and that he might be permitted to present those p esent to the new member of the Board. This was agreed to, and Dr. William Tindall, Secretary to the Board, stepped forward, and administered to Messrs. Ross and Macweapons as the Gathmann guns.

On Monday, when the Gathmann gun item in the Naval Appropriation bill, taking the sum of \$250,000 for a few of the weapons, was all ready to be rushed through the Senate by Mr. Hanns, who remained in his seat all day for this purpose, Mr. Tillman spoiled the scheme by demanding that the item go over until a r the duties of the office on which you are about to enter: So help you God."

The heads of departments, clerks, and employes of the District were then presented to Mr. Macfarland, who had a grant tained therein that the Gathmann gun ing, and was carefully kept private, but so condemnatory are the statements con-tained therein that the Gathmann gun item will be surely stricken from the bill, and Mr. Hanna will have met his first defent in the Senate.

The report states in part: "The bureau observes that the Naval Appropriation bill as amended by the Sen-ate contains the following provision: "To enable the Secretary of the Navy,

in his discretion, to purchase from the Gathmann Torpedo Gun Company of Chicago, Ill., the gun equipment for one or more of the harbor defence monitors authorized by the act approved May 4, 1898, such equipment to consist of two guns for each vessel of not less than 16-inch bore and not less than forty feet in length, ca-pable of throwing the Gathmann type of shell containing about 500 pounds of wet gun cotton, said guns to cost each not more than \$62,500, and the workmanship and material to be equal to the present standard now used in the Navy and sub-ject to the usual inspection of the Bureau of Ordnappe, \$250,000 or symple bersen! of Ordnance, \$250,000, or so much thereof

as may be necessary.

"The bureau approaches this subject with much hesitancy, and only because it believes itself in possession of important the leves tiself in possession of important information relative to the subject which the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs was probably not cognizant of; and this being a matter of vital importance to the Navy at large, the following comments are respectfully submitted for the Department's information, and the Bureau ventures to suppose that the substantial tures to suggest that the substance of them be communicated to Congress before final action is taken on the provision re-

Gathmann Gun Not a Novelty.

"The so-called Gathmann gun is not a novelty, nor is it original with the company, and there is no reason why it should which each Commissioner is to exercise be purchased from that company, who are personal supervision. After an expression in no sense gun-makers and have no plant

bureau's opinion, is the only feature c' the entire contemplated outfit that Ga'hmann Company can legitimately lay claim to.

"Their proposition is to use a gun of about the same weight as the present 12-inch naval gun, but of larger calibre, having a different thickness of walls, and using a lower chamber pressure than the naval gun. The proposed gun is intended to fire a shell relatively light for its calibre, in order that with a moderate prezsure a fairly high muzzle velocity may be obtained. Such a gun will be deficient in range as compared with the high-powered naval guns, and consequently will have to naval guns, and consequently will have to

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, I lean not unto thine own understand"In all thy ways acknowledge Him and shall direct thy paths."

Tanges, water values.

"The last Fortification bill appropriated \$75,000 for a large-calibre Gathmann gun for experimental purposes, and one is now in an advanced stage, but has yet to be test-

such a shell in the bore of a gun it would be attended with most disastrous results. So far as the Bureau can learn, such a large mass of wet gun cotton as is proposed to be fired has never been attempted a committee to select delegates-at-large to the National Convention and Presidential election of Joseph G. Cannon, of Danville, John G. Brown, of Vandalia; Haie D. Jud.

such a shell in the bore of a gun it would be attended with most disastrous results. So far as the Bureau can learn, such a large mass of wet gun cotton as is proposed to be fired has never been attempted or three years—and he was inclined to think that it would take from four to five years to produce armor in a Government plate armor could be produced in it under two or three years—and he was inclined to think that it would take from four to five years to produce armor in a Government plant and in the mentile to select delegates-at-large to the shell on account of some unperceived defect in the metal, to an excessive pressure in the gun, which unaccount of Joseph G. Cannon, of Danville, John G. Brown, of Vandalia; Haie D. Jud. er unforeseen cause. In all experiments thus far in firing high explosives, even in small quantities, it is considered a neces-sary act of prudence for all spectators to retire to the shelter of a bomb-proof or to

withdraw to a safe distance. "It is a notable fact that in the experiments made with wet gun cotton both at the Indian Head and Sandy Hook proving grounds there has been difficulty in securing good detonations of large masses of it when fired in thin-walled shells such as are used by the Gathmann Company. Quantities of unconsumed wet gun cotton have generally been found at or near the point of explosion, and the destructive effect of the Gathmann shells has in several instances, been suppositions and the several instances. nstances been surprisingly small and in ome cases insignificant.

Experiments a Failure.

"A large proportion of the experiments nade with Gathmann shells of numeron varieties have been failures or partial failures, according to the official reports, exept in so far that they were safely projected from the guns.

"No official approval of the Gathmanr No omeiai approval of the Gathmann system either by the Army or Navy has ever been given, and so far as concerns the company's present form of shell, the bureau believes it is correct in saying that but five have yet been made, and but one ried with full charge for effect, and it is proposed to introduce them into the service, whereas the cheapest form of com-

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Clear Doors, without a knot, \$1.25, 11/2 inch thick and No. 1. F. Libbey & Co.

mon shell or shrapnel would not be ac

cepted on such a test.

"One of the latest experiments with the Gathmann shell was made at Sandy Hook, on May 9, 1899. The object of the test may be best explained in the words of the inventor, as follows:

We desire to prove that even though a gun should turst in firing no explosion or detonation of the main charge of gun cotton in our shell will occur. To dem-Absolutely Nothing of Merit in the Proposed Implement of War Which the Ohio Scinitor Tried to Foist Upon the Government. The Important Secrets Laid Bare.

The important secrets which Senator Tillman related in executive session last night, and which Senator Hale feared might "get into the newspapers," and smokeless powder, put in a charge containing about 169 pounds of gun cotton, with fuse attached, choke up the bore of the gun with sand and completely try it in the pit, and then fire it. The result will, of course, be to burst the gun and set off the fuse; but we claim that no harm will be done to the main charge of gun cotton. We are moved to ask this largely because of the late explosion by smokeless powder of a 10-inch gun. We

> "This experiment, like many others failed to demonstrate what was claimed and was not repeated, though the representative of the Gathmann Company expressed his introduction." pressed his intention of so doing, which,

> however, he has refrained from doing,
> "In conclusion, the bureau respectfully
> submits that in its opinion the best interests of the Navy will rot be served by
> the introduction of the so-called Gathmann gun equipment as part of the armament of one or more of the harbor-defence moni-tors now under construction, the element of danger with respect to it being too great and its efficiency problematical; ing manufactured for these vess

IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The Senate Discusses the Naval Appropriation Bill.

morning, I really feel that any attempt to keep the matter from being made public is almost hopeless. It will be remembered by Senators who were here yesterday, and by Senators who were here yesterday, and delay. that there is a great deal more in the papers than was brought dut here. So it

man did not finish his sentence. "I suggest," said Mr. Vest, "that we

had better go into executive session." "Let me get through with my observa-ions," Mr. Tillman pleaded. "I make my motion," said Mr. Vest, because I do not wish the Senator's

tatement to be made in public." "I was merely going to state," Mr. Till. nan persisted, "that in consequence of the newspaper publications this morning, I am

But Mr. Vest again interposed and Mr. Chandler said that he joined in the motion that the galleries be cleared and the doors closed. eupon the President pro tempora

committee amendment as to "armor and armament." His proposition was to strike out the provision authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to procure armor at not over \$445 per ton and to make the other proviso direct the Secretary of the Navy (without any preliminary condition) to establish an armor plate feature at a grant of the stalwart Administration men, and Mr. McBride is said to be undetermined as to whether his political fortunes

tablish an ar ot to exceed \$4,000,000 not to exceed \$4,000,000.

Mr. Hale spoke of the remarkable advance made in recent years by the United States in the construction of naval ships, and of that advance having been at once with the people of Oregon or with the Administration.

Mr. Hepburn, author of the bill, which was under consideration, is in Iowa.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday. Bear Admiral

millions, and the cost of their armor thirty five millions. The Committee on Naval Af-fairs had become sobered when brought face to face with this condition, and he had

be produced at a Government factor; for \$445 a ton, but if the manufacturers would not furnish armor at that price, then he would be decidedly in favor of a Government plant.

DECLINES THE REQUEST.

Attorney General Griggs Will Not Send a Report to the Senate.

Attorney General Griggs, in replying to

a Senate resolution calling for the report of Special Agent Southerland, regarding the connection of William H. Theobald, a special customs agent in New York, with the criminal proceedings at Malone, N. Y. for violation the Chinese Exclusion law, eclines to furnish the report on the ground that its publicity would not only be a violation of the confidential relation existing between the special attorney and the head of the department, but would also be prejadicial to the public interest in revealing to the accused persons and others the plans and purposes of the Department of Justice The report, he adds, deals with certain allegations and suspicions incriminating other persons than the defendants in the rial referred to, against whom further dings before a Federal grand jury

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THE HEPBURN CANAL BILL

Considered by the Senate Committee and Action Deferred.

til the Isthmian Commission Car Be Heard Prevails by a Vote Said to Be Five to Three-Expected to Be Given a Hearing on Next Friday The Senate Committee on Interoceanid anals met today and had under consideration the Hepburn Nicaragua Canal bill.

which was passed by the House on May 3.

The members of the committee present

Senator Hanna's Motion to Delay Une

were Senators Morgan, Harris, Turner, Hawley, Sewell, Platt of New York, Mc-Bride, and Hanna. Senator Culberson was absent. So far as could be learned, no member of the committee would make any statement concerning the action that was taken. Senator Morgan said: "I will not tell you thing about it. I will not give outone word

of what transpired in the committee room upon the subject of the canal." Senator Hanna said: "No, I am not go-ng to divulge any of the secrets of the ttee room, and cannot talk with you

bout the work of the committee on the Canal bill. Senator McBride said: "The Committee on Interoceanic Canals met and considered the House Canal bill. That is all I am at iberty to say."

Other members of the committee were qually tactiturn on the canal question. Notwithstanding that the Senators name At the conclusion of the routine morning business in the Senate, the Naval Appropriation bill was taken up, and Mr. Hale, in charge of it, said that he would leave the question of a secret session with the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Tillman), on whose motion the doors had been closed yesterday.

"Remembering what occurred in the Senate yesterday," said Mr. Tillman, "and the predictions that were made, and in view of what appeared in the newspapers this morning, I really feel that any attempt to

who have read the mo. ing papers today, familiar by the opponents of the canal. He said that he favored an interoceanic canal —that is, he favored the construction of it that was brought out here. So it appears that we might as well—"

Here Senators Vest and Chandler broke in with a question of order; and Mr. Tillman did not finish his sentence.

—that is, he havered the construction of it as some other time. At present, he said, he was opposed to the canal proposition. He wanted all routes explored, surveyed, and reported on, and he wanted the treaty rights of the United States in the premises.

rights of the United States in the premises determined.

For these reasons, he moved that the matter be delayed until the Isthmian Canal Commission should have made its final report. When it was evident to the minority members of the committee that Mr. Hanna's proposition would have the support of the Republicans and that it would prevail, Mr. Morgan moved that further consideration of the bill should be postponed until information could be obtained from the Isthmian Canal Commission as to when its report would be presented. This motion prevailed, Mr. McBride voting for it. The committee then adjourned.

The second account of the committee's action is probably founded on two facts; first, Mr. Morgan's apparent despondency, and Mr. McBride's long, close conference with Mr. Fairbanks. When Mr. Morgan announced to newspaper men that he would not talk about the canal matter he

(Mr. Frye) gave the necessary orders, and the Senate proceeded to consider the Naval Appropriation bill behind closed doors.

At 1 o'clock the doors were respend, and the Senate continued consideration of the Naval Appropriation bill.

Mr. Tillman moved an amendment to the committee amendment as to "armor and set fought be were oppressed and discouraged. Mr. McBride, directly after the adjournment of the committee, sought Mr.

or plate factory at a cost lie with the people of Oregon or with the

be held on Friday. Rear Admiral Walker has been invited to appear and give his views as to the comparative practicability of the Nicaragua and Panama

MR. JCHNSON'S RETIREMENT. A New Chief for the Bureau Not Yet

Named. Assistant Secretary Vanderlip, in conjunction with Assistant Director Sullivan, found it imposssible to get armor at that of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, price. The cost of ships that were in course of construction was to be eighty

Mr. Johnson's successor is appointed. The Mr. Johnson's successor is appointed. The resignation of Mr. Johnson will go into et-

fect temorrow, when he will retire. Mr. Vanderlip has spent nearly every forenoon since Mr. Johnson handed in his resignation at the plant making himself fimiliar with its running and the management. Mr. Vanderlip said this morning that no one had yet been designated to

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON. A Schedule Arranged for the Sum-

Rear Admiral Farguhar, commanding the North Atlantic Squadron, who is in Washington, has arranged with Secretary Long for a cruise of the squadron this summer. Owing to the comparatively few men available for sea service and the neessity for other ships

quadron will consist only of the armored rulser New York and the battleship Tex-s with the probable addition of the bat-leship Kearsarge later on. The squadron will be at Newport on June to attend the opening of the Naval War College at Boston, June 17, for the Bunker Hill ceremonies, and at Portland, Me., on August 6, for a local celebration. Between these dates the ships will devote themselves to target practice and tactical maneuvres.

ROSEMONT, Pa., May 9 .- Alfred Tunnel, a colored man, was held in \$300 batt by Justice Warner, here yesterday on a charge of trespass. Tunnel is a driver for J. Howard Supplee. Mr. Supplee, believng that the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd was about to plant a hedge three Shepperd was about to plant a heage three feet outside of their property line, on Lan-caster Avenue, is alleged to have had Tunnel place a wagon on the disputed land. The arrest followed. There are rumors now of all kinds of legal complica-

Examinations for the Army. On June 1 next, examinations will be held at the headquarters of every department of the Army, for the grade of second lieutenant. The test may be taken by

all enlisted men. It is said there are at present 150 vacancies in this rank and there are not enough West Point graduates to fill them. If enough enlisted men do not take or pass the examinations the remain-ing vacancies will be filled by civillan ap-

Flynn's Business College, 8th and K. Carpenters' Lists figured very low l always at Friendly Corner. F. Libbey & Co.